GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1564
ANSWERED ON:07.08.2006
AUTHORITY FOR WATERSHED PROGRAMMES .
Chavda Shri Harisinh Pratapsinh;Patel Shri Jivabhai Ambalal

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government proposes to constitute a separate authority for watershed programmes;

(b) If so, the benefits likely to be accrued therefrom;

(c) The expenditure likely to be incurred thereon; and

(d) The logic behind setting up of the separate authority in addition to the existing watershed programmes?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): The Authority is likely to focus on removing the problems of farmers in dryland areas.

(c): An initial expenditure of Rs.3.5 Crores per year likely to be incurred for setting up of the Authority.

(d): The Authority is likely to be an expert body to provide the much-needed knowledge inputs regarding systematic up-gradation and management of country`s dryland and rainfed agriculture. It is proposed to be an advisory and Policy making and monitoring body. The Authority will look into all aspects of sustainable and holistic development of rainfed areas, including appropriate farming and livelihood system approaches and issues pertaining to landless and marginal farmers, who constitute the large majority of inhabitants of rained areas. The Authority will coordinate and bring convergence within and among agricultural and watershed development programmes being implemented in rainfed areas of the country